

February 6, 2008

To: The Ravalli County Commission

From: John Grove

Regarding: Proposed Streambank Setback Provisions

I live in the Townsite of Stevensville. My wife and I own 320' of land along the mainstem of the Bitterroot River. We have lived in this particular location for 12 years. Though that seems a short time, we have experienced many changes in the river and have gleaned the history of other substantial changes from neighbors and others.

We wholeheartedly support the Stream Bank Setback Proposal. In fact, we believe one of the main reasons for instituting setbacks is to protect property rights, values and loss of property due to bank erosion, of owners along the river downstream/upstream from different types of development. There should be a minimum of a ~~200'~~^{300'} setback.
J.G.

In my lifetime, I have seen a multitude of situations where development of different kinds along our rivers and streams has caused irreparable harm to the natural changes in these water bodies. This has affected property owners upstream and down, municipalities, roads, agricultural land and many such resources. It has also had a damaging effect on the fisheries and other wildlife which are a source of a huge economic benefit to the valley.

In summary, the common good or the property rights, values, and loss of property of the general citizenry of the valley must be protected from such takings by individuals who would do what they will along our streams and rivers.